

Frequently Asked Questions From the Open Houses

- 1. Why is this project needed as compared to other City priorities?** Traffic congestion on nearby streets such as Settlemier and Hwy 214 is the primary reason for this project. The existing orientation of 5th Street and available right-of-way present an opportunity to effectively and efficiently address the congestion issue by providing another connection to Hwy 214.
- 2. Is there another solution that doesn't change the existing street?** Several conceptual options were discussed and reviewed during the planning stage and development of the City's TSP. Concepts such as a pedestrian bridge over Hwy 214, signals at other intersections, or connecting other roads to Hwy 214 would not provide the desired outcome of relieving traffic congestion around Settlemier and Hwy 214.
- 3. Why wasn't the public notified earlier? What can I do if I oppose the project?** This project was first identified in the City's TSP which is available on the City's website for the public to view. No work beyond what was presented in the TSP has been completed until now. The public will have many opportunities throughout the CAC meeting process to provide comments and influence the proposed design leading up to the 30% design level.
- 4. What are the benefits of the project for those on 5th compared to the rest of the community?** The project will benefit a large portion of the City. Residents within the neighborhood around 5th Street will benefit from new pedestrian facilities, improved drainage system, landscaping, street lighting, new pavement, signing, striping and a new signal at Hwy 214 to improve turning movements. Residents of the broader community will also benefit through the reduction in congestion at key intersections, most notably Hwy 214 and Settlemier.
- 5. How much would traffic and speed increase?** A comprehensive traffic analysis is currently being completed to estimate changes in traffic and speed for 5th Street and all affected surrounding streets. The speed limit will kept the same at 20-25 mph. Preliminary results of the traffic analysis are expected to be available for the second CAC meeting.
- 6. Air pollution and noise would increase. How much?** Preliminary modeling results using EPA's SCREEN3 indicate that exposure levels to pollutants from increased traffic on 5th Street would be well below the accepted thresholds established under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and would not be a significant impact. Noise impacts are being investigated. Relative increase in noise will be well below that required for mitigation (an increase in 10 dBA Leq or a peak hour level of 65 dBA Leq).
- 7. I'm concerned about the safety of the children and other pedestrians. Wouldn't this project increase the danger for pedestrians because of the added traffic?** One of the project goals is to provide enhanced pedestrian safety with new sidewalks, ADA ramps, crosswalks, curb extensions, street lighting, and traffic calming devices to maintain speed limit and balance the increase in traffic volume. The traffic analysis currently being completed will include an assessment of traffic safety based on a review of the City's TSP and other available planning documents.
- 8. How would parking be affected?** Several options are available for parking on 5th Street as presented in the conceptual cross sections. Parallel parking on one or both sides of the street, similar to Front Street, is possible. Angle parking is another option that would be well suited when paired with a one way couplet option. Overall, the project design team's goal is to increase parking capacity with this project.
- 9. What would happen to the crime levels?** A new street lighting system and other enhanced facilities are expected to have a positive overall impact on crime although the overall project affect on crime levels is difficult to predict.
- 10. How would properties along 5th be affected including property values?** All proposed roadway improvements on 5th Street, including sidewalk and landscaping, would be within existing publicly owned right-of-way. Some properties with frontages on 5th Street have front yards that extend into the 5th Street right-of-way. The portion of these yards that are within the right-of-way may be converted into landscaping and sidewalk areas as part of this project. Although we cannot predict future property values, new sidewalks and street trees as are planned with this project have been found to increase property values in other communities.